

# SECURITY - *Now ...more than ever!*

Cyber Security - Disaster Recovery - Continuity of Government



## DTI eSecurity News – Spring Password Cleaning

### Time to Tackle a Password Project



We all know the importance of having strong passwords and passphrases. One strong password is not enough, each important account

requires its own. Be honest, nearly all of us use the same one for more than one account. Who has the time to create and then remember a bunch of different complicated passwords?

This spring let's approach cleaning up our passwords like we would approach spring cleaning our homes, admitting we can use some help. Consider tidying up your online accounts the same way you might hire someone to do the windows or paint the shutters. Some tasks are just too daunting without a plan and some assistance.

The good folks at Yahoo!Tech have developed a step by step plan and we're sharing their guidance along with that of other cyber safety experts.

### What is a Password Manager?

A Password Manager is an app that allows a user to create strong or creative passwords, manage them safely, and synchronize multiple devices to a single account.

Check out PasswordSafe (<http://passwordsafe.sourceforge.net>), a tool that allows you to safely and easily create a secure and encrypted user name and password list. It's free and highly rated by cyber security experts.

### Be On the Lookout!

Tax fraud can take many forms, especially this time of year. The IRS warns taxpayers to watch out for e-mail refund schemes and even phone impersonators looking to get your tax-sensitive information. Learn more [here](#).

### Simple Five Step Plan

- **SELECT** a Password Manager application that best suits your needs and take the time to thoroughly review the instructions/tutorial.
- **PICK** a STRONG master password/passphrase. All password managers require you to create and remember a complex phrase. However, it doesn't have to be difficult, think of a sentence or nonsense phrase that means something to you and then replace some of the letters or entire words with symbols or numbers.
- **INSTALL** it on one computer first. A good app will take you through the process easily. After you set your password/passphrase, install the app onto your other devices. The software should guide you through connecting all the devices to a single account that stores all of your passwords.
- **REPLACE** duplicated and weak passwords with fresh ones. Nearly all password managers will show you where you're using the same passwords. Start with your important financial accounts first, banking, credit cards and places where you often shop. Next on your cleaning list should be social media sites.
- **FINALLY**, start using your manager, give it a whirl, go out to a site and if you're logged on, log off. Use the manager's search feature to find the site or manually go back to the login page. You might have to type the first key or two, but the manager should quickly activate, and populate the password field on your behalf.
- **CONGRATULATIONS!** One more spring cleaning chore done and your accounts are now more secure.

### Cyber Security Workshop

Chase Center, Wilmington, DE

**May 6th, 2014**

Full day event featuring cyber training at all levels.

<http://dti.delaware.gov/cyberworkshop>